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FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH

by

Yurko



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EDITED TRANSLATION

IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH

By: Yurko

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PREPARED BY:
TRANSLATION DIVISION
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
WP-APB, ONO.

IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH

Yurko

Dear Sir,

D. Gorbatsevich's book "Two Months as a Guest of the Collective Farm Workers," while it has been the subject of violent attacks in the Soviet press, contains nothing but the incontrovertible truth. For example, the question of the individual plot of thirty one-hundredths of a hectare: this is after all only a scrap of land 35 paces wide by 116 paces long, from which the harvest will obviously be of scant benefit of the 'kolkhoznik'.

The fact is that Gorbatsevich has written nothing detrimental to his country and has made nothing up. If a woman kolkhoz worker happens to be amazed when she sees a bathtub, unable to understand why they need a "trough" like that in Minsk since people do not raise swine in cities, then this can only be regarded as very regrettable and not at all as "progress by Soviet White Russia" over what existed under the Tzars.

In that bygone era, apples, pears, and cucumbers would be on sale in the August markets for two or three kopecks a "garnets" (a unit of measure corresponding to 3.28 liters), while today fruit and vegetables exist only in the Soviet press. Why are not foreign tourists permitted to visit the collective farms at will? Because

the difference between city and hamlet in the USSR is the difference between night and day. A collective farm milkmaid, after milking twelve cows by hand, receives a miserly emolument. However bad the old days may have been, buying and selling was not a matter of under-the-counter connections, and even the poorest peasant had his winter supply of cabbage and other vegetables, while today you can make the rounds of an entire oblast' (Grodnenskaya, to cite one) and find not a single farm worker so favored.

In our area, even as long ago as during the Polish rule, there were two rivers across the Neman River. One of them has now collapsed from decrepitude and in its place they have now knocked together a raft of boards to make the crossing. In some places you can still see them going across on the old ferry, hanging on to the rope. What kind of progress is that?

Country houses are still being made the same way they were then, except that they do not use straw for the roofing because the straw comes out of the combine too crumpled for use as roof material. These same rural houses are heated with wood or turf - coal does not filter down as far as the country despite the fact that the USSR is said to have passed the US in the production of coal. People who visited their native village of Kurilovichy had to wash with one person pouring water from a jug on the hands of the others.

The Second World War brought frightful destruction. Many orphans, having lost their fathers in the war against fascism, were unable to finish even elementary school. The school was there, but one does not go barefoot in the winter...

No one will denigrate the bravery and self-sacrifice of the Byelorussian people in their repulse of the fascists. Among the partisans there were all kinds of people, including priests, deacons, and "kulaks" (landowners) - so-called simply because they happened to own a parcel of land. Some of these people fought their way all the way to Berlin... only to be exiled to Siberia by the Soviet

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ABSTRACT <p>(U) The article discusses various facts in D. Gorbatshevich's publication, "Two Months as a Guest of the Collective Farm-Workers." Living conditions, lack of fresh fruit, housing construction, deterioration of river crossings, the small amount of salary received for a days work and the fact that many orphans of the war are unable to finish even elementary school through the lack of warm clothing. The article maintains the publication contains true existing facts.</p>				